

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 421

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 4262

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN PINR CH

SUBJ: PLANNING RANKED AHEAD OF FOREIGN TRADE

SUMMARY: AN ADDITIONAL VICE MINISTER OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND HE HAS BEEN RANKED AHEAD OF HIS COUNTERPART FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON THE OCCASION OF VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S VISIT TO THE AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, YUAN PAO-HUA (STC: 5913/1405/5478), WHOM NCNA IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A FIVE MINISTER OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, WAS RANKED AHEAD OF CHAI SHU-FAN, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, AND WANG YAO-TING, CHAIRMAN OF CCPIT, WITHIN WHOSE SPHERE OF RESPONSIBILITY THE TRADE EXHIBITION CLEARLY FALLS. WITHOUT WANTING TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF IT, WE CONSIDER THIS RANKING SUGGESTIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE CURRENTLY BEING ATTACHED TO CENTRAL PLANNING. WE WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT A SIMILAR RANK ORDERING OCCURRED A YEAR AGO WHEN THE MINISTER OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, YU CHIU-LI, ACCOMPANIED PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI ON HIS VISIT TO THE

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BRITISH INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION (1973 ER 7, HK 3469).

2. YUAN IS AN OLD EXPERIENCED BUREAUCRAT. HE BECAME VICE MINISTER OF THE METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY IN THE LATE 1950'S AND WAS FIRST APPOINTED A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION IN SEPTEMBER 1960. UPON ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN NOVEMBER 1964, HE WAS CONCURRENTLY MADE MINISTER FOR THE ALLOCATION OF MATERIALS, AN APPOINTMENT MADE IN THE NAME OF LIU SHAO-CHI. HE APPEARS NOT TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AS HE APPEARED AT SEVERAL PUBLIC RALLIES DURING THAT PERIOD. HE CONTINUED TO BE IDENTIFIED AS MINISTER UNTIL MARCH 1971, AND IN MAY OF 1973 HE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A "LEADING MEMBER " OF A DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL. THE TIMING OF HIS NEW APPOINTMENT IS UNCLEAR, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE A PROMOTION BECAUSE THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION IS THE PRC'S HIGHEST ECONOMIC PLANNING BODY. AS THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE MINISTRY OF ALLOCATION OF MATERIALS IS STILL IN OPERATION, IT IS REASONABLE TO THINK THAT ITS FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION, PERHAPS WITH DAY-TO -DAY OPERATIONS AND DECISIONS BEING SHARED WITH OR DELEGATED TO OTHER RELEVANT MINISTRIES. CROSS

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